

## St. Louis Catholic Church

### Palm Sunday

They cheered and waved Palm Branches welcoming the "King of the Jews" into the city of Jerusalem. Would He take over politically? Would He mount a military force to overcome the enemies of the people of Israel? How soon the crowd would change. Soon they would say "He is not our King", and "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"

Jesus makes His entrance into Jerusalem to fulfill His mission which was to die for our sins. He came to this point in history--its greatest moment--to call us to conversion, to show us love and to invite us to the Kingdom of God. He was so committed that he gave His life for this cause.

Crucifixion would be the price to pay. This was the most brutal of all deaths. Scourging before Crucifixion was itself a terrifying ordeal. Many died during the scourging. Some people actually went insane from the pain and torture. But Jesus allowed this awful torture that actually led to asphyxiation to be inflicted upon Him.

Jesus wanted His death to be a sign that "no one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends". He died out of love and so He wanted His death to be an invitation for the disciples and us today, "Love one another as I love you". He also teaches us that love entails suffering. "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny Himself, take up His cross, and follow me".

This is a week of love. We enter in with Jesus as palm branches are blessed and we carry them in procession symbolically following Jesus into Jerusalem. We are all encouraged to follow in liturgy this week of love.

Love week is a call to wake up. We once hailed Jesus as Lord. Have we become jaded as we grow up? Is our faith trusting and childlike? Do we really believe that Christ died and suffered for us? Do we believe that salvation comes from belief in Him?

I hope that our jaded practices of the faith doesn't make us part of the crowd saying "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" This week of love calls us to reaffirm our faith and love. "My Lord and My God".

God Bless,  
Msgr. John McArthur

### Key Events This Week:

1. Holy Week Confessions  
Monday 5:00-6:00 p.m.  
Thursday 5:00-6:30 p.m.  
Friday 5:00-6:30 p.m.  
Saturday 2:30-4:30 p.m.
2. Stations of the Cross--Friday 3:00 p.m.

3. Chrism Mass--Tuesday--Cathedral--7:00 p.m.  
Beautiful Mass--Bishop, Priests--Blessing of Oils
4. Seder Meal--Wednesday--6:30 p.m.--Cafeteria
5. Thursday--Mass of the Lord's Supper--Washing of Feet--7:00 p.m.  
Adoration in Meditation Garden until Midnight--Could you not stay one hour?
6. Friday--Passion of the Lord Service--Scripture/Veneration of the Cross/Communion--7:00 p.m.
7. Saturday--Easter Vigil--8:00 p.m.